

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02704 010736Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----071921 010740Z /17

P 281549Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1553  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY  
USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2704

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PCAT, UNSC, IS, SF  
SUBJECT: ISRAELI COMPLIANCE WITH SOUTH AFRICAN ARMS EMBARGO

REF: A) STATE 34219, B) STATE 38198, C) STATE 46655, D) USUN 610

1. DURING PRIVATE MEETING WITH BEGIN FEBRUARY 27, I  
RAISED THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMS EMBARGO ISSUE WITH HIM.  
I WENT THROUGH THE TALKING POINTS IN REF A, AS MODIFIED  
BY FACT THAT SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HAS NOW CHANGED ITS  
POSITION AND TAKEN SAME STAND AS ALL OTHER GOVERNMENTS.  
CAME DOWN VERY HARD ON TOTAL ISOLATION FACED BY ISRAELIS  
IN UN ON THIS QUESTION AND THE FACT THAT US WILL NOT BE  
ABLE TO DEFEND ISRAEL'S ACTION OR SUPPORT ITS INTERPRETATION  
OF RESOLUTION 418 WHEN THE SECURITY COUNCIL REVIEWS  
ISRAELI COMPLIANCE WITH THE EMBARGO, AS IT WILL SURELY  
BE ASKED TO DO IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I URGED BEGIN TO  
REEXAMINE THE ISRAELI POSITION IN LIGHT OF THE FACT  
THAT IT IS THE ONLY GOVERNMENT IN THE WORLD CURRENTLY  
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INSISTING THAT THIS RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY TO EXISTING  
CONTRACTS, CONTRARY TO THE VIEWS OF ALL THE SPONSORS OF  
THE RESOLUTION AND OF ALL OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

2. BEGIN ASKED ME ABOUT THE FRENCH, AND I REMINDED HIM  
THAT THE FRENCH HAD CUT OFF SHIPMENTS UNDER EXISTING  
CONTRACTS, THUS AGREEING WITH US AND WITH EVERYONE ELSE

THAT THIS IS REQUIRED UNDER THE RESOLUTION. I ALSO STRESSED THE SWEDISH CHANGE OF POSITION.

3. BEGIN WAS OBVIOUSLY TAKEN SERIOUSLY ABACK BY THE PRESENTATION AND WORRIED BY THIS EVIDENCE OF TOTAL ISRAELI ISOLATION. HE SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS IT IMMEDIATELY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN, AND WITH THE DEFENSE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE OF THE CABINET ON THURSDAY, MARCH 2. HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE AN ANSWER FOR ME BY FRIDAY, MARCH 3, OR AT LATEST BY FIRST OF THE FOLLOWING WEEK. HE GAVE ME THE IMPRESSION THAT HE MAY DECIDE TO OVERRULE THE VIEWS OF HIS LAWYERS IN LIGHT OF THIS DEMARCHE, BUT HE REMINDED ME OF THE FACT THAT ISRAEL'S TIES WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY WERE VERY IMPORTANT TO IT AND THAT ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA WERE ALSO OF GROWING SIGNIFICANCE. NONETHELESS, THESE COMMENTS WERE STRIKINGLY HALF-HEARTED AND SEEMED TO ME OUTWEIGHED BY HIS WORRIES ABOUT BEING SO TOTALLY ISOLATED AND WITHOUT ANY U.S. SUPPORT IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL WHEN THE ISSUE ARISES.  
LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMS, ARMS EMBARGO, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Film Number:** D780093-0543  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**SAS ID:** 3423444  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ISRAELI COMPLIANCE WITH SOUTH AFRICAN ARMS EMBARGO  
**TAGS:** PCAT, IS, SF, UNSC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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